

Rural Economy.

SPARE THE TREES.

The more superficial observer traveling either in England or on the Continent, must have noticed the extreme care which is taken to preserve trees and fruits from destruction. The country-seats and parks of the wealthy are surrounded with strong walls, not so much from an idea of exclusiveness, as with a view toward the preservation of the shrubbery; and even on the highways the trees are guarded with the utmost care. Among the peasantry of Spain and some portions of Germany, the custom is general of depositing in the ground the pit or seed of the fruit just eaten. It is also an old oriental custom. The result is seen in the large number of fruit trees that shade the highways of some countries. The magnificent trees, also, which on many parts of the continent line the public roads for miles, bear abundant testimony to the zealousness with which their growth is guarded. In England the same vigilance is exercised to prevent the destruction or mutilation of the forests. It is but a few weeks since an English baronet was sentenced to six weeks' hard labor and compelled to pay a fine of seven pounds for marking and causing to be felled two trees on an estate to which he laid claim, but of which he was not the recognized owner. Nor does the sentence seem to have been thought by the English people too severe—the public verdict being, "served him right."

The Americans would do well to copy after the example of their European neighbors in this matter. Yearly and daily and hourly our magnificent forests, the distinctive beauty of an American landscape, are falling under the woodman's axe—a sacrifice to the greed of gain. Undoubtedly one cause of the different estimate that the inhabitants of the two countries put upon the value of trees is, that in old countries the fact is realized that the forests are nearly gone, and must be guarded if any portion of them is saved. In America, on the contrary, settlers never can believe that the vast forests will be exhausted. The result, however, is the same. A farmer, having selected his land, at once goes to work to clear off the timber; and seemingly possessed of an unquiet spirit urging him on, stops not until he has removed nearly every particle of the wood, often leaving his cottage standing alone, without even the shelter of a solitary tree—a fiery furnace in summer, and a bare and bleak place in winter. Nor do the consequences end here. The farmer soon finds the cooling springs, at which he was wont to water his flocks, either drying up earlier than usual, or affording much less water than when he first settled the farm, and ignorantly attributes it to an unusual number of droughts and "dry spells," instead of finding the true solution in the fact that the chief protection of the cooling springs that formed a prominent feature of attraction in inducing him to purchase, was destroyed by himself when he cut down the forests. But notwithstanding the vastness of the forests that nature so prodigally scattered over the country, they are fast disappearing before the axe, and it is now a serious question how long they will last.—Journal of Commerce.

FLORAL EFFECTS.

The beauty and effectiveness of "flower" may be greatly increased if perfume, and more especially annuals, be sown in masses. A bed of tulips, gladioli and radiant with color and bloom, does not dimming the rainbow by contrast, but we appreciate the "tulip mania" which raged among the staid Hollandaise of the last century; while the same flower, sown as we frequently see, in a straight line along the garden borders, gives but a token of their possible beautiful effect. Tulips, too, those social, smiling little gems, that seem made to huddle and cling together, when stretched out in uncompro-mising straight rows, are they not as forlorn desolate looking as so many poor little cats whose mother has gone a mousetrap? If you do not wish your flowers to be at a little distance, like a patchwork of olden times—plant them in mass. Let the Portulacas, awakened by the sun smiling into their sleeping eyes, themselves "in the bosom of their joy," surrounded by kindred. Let the set Peas twine their lithe, delicate stems together. Let the Asters leave off sipping among the Marigolds and Zinnias, cluster round each other, remembering "union is strength." Let the rank and of your great army of bloom stand together in regiments and brigades, while the coral officers, the glorious Lilies, gorgeous Pinks, and queen flower of all, the peerless Rose, may stand out, indeed must stand "observed of all observers." Finally, do not try every flower that is obtainable. There are some common—we had almost said coarse-looking flowers—only we remember the Divine Artificer, and that,

"The good Lord who loveth us, Hath made, and loveth all!" do not repay the trifling labor they do and are a blemish upon the beauty of the garden. No one can have too many roses, pinks, or violets; but it is quite easy to have too many marigolds, buttercups or hocks.

BITTING COLTS IN BREAKING.

They are universally acknowledged as a part of the art of horse-training, and suggestions from his experience are worth consulting. Speaking of the common method of "bitting colts," he says:—"Farmers and breakers often put a bitting harness upon the first thing they do to him, and make him carry his head high, and turn him out in a lot to run half a day. This is one of the worst punishments they could inflict upon a colt, and is injurious to a young horse that has been running in pasture with his head down. A horse should be well accustomed to the bit before the bitting harness is put on, and when he is first bitted, he should be reined up to where he holds his head high or low; he will learn to be bitted, but he cannot lower his head, and that raising it a little will loosen the bit in his

mouth. This will give him the idea of raising his head to loosen his bit, and then you can draw the bit a little tighter every time you put it on, and he will raise his head to loosen it. By this means you can gradually get his head and neck in the position you wish him to carry it, and give him a graceful carriage without hurting him, making him angry, or causing his mouth to be sore."

TO KEEP TIRES ON WHEELS.

Hear what a practical man says on this subject:—"I ironed a wagon one year ago for my own use, and before putting on the tires I filled the fellos with linseed oil; and the tires have worn out and were never loose. I ironed a buggy for my own use several years ago, and the tires are now as tight as when put on. My method of filling the fellos with oil is as follows: I use a long cast-iron heater, made for the purpose. The oil is brought to a boiling heat, the wheel is placed on a stick, so as to hang in the oil each fello, an hour for a common-sized fello. The timber should be dry, as green timber will not take oil. Care should be taken that the oil be no hotter than a boiling heat, in order that the timber be not burnt. Timber filled with oil is not susceptible to water, and the timber is much more durable. I was amused, some years ago, when I told the blacksmith how to keep the tire tight on wheels, by his telling me that it was a profitable business to tighten tires, and the wagon-maker will say that it is profitable to him to make and repair wheels; but what will the farmer who supports the wheelwright and smith say?"—Exchange.

PRESERVATION OF FRUIT.

At the Russian Court fruit is preserved by being packed in creosotized lime. The lime is slacked in water in which a little creosote has been dissolved, and is allowed to fall to powder. The bottom of a plain deal box is covered with it one inch thick, and over it is a sheet of paper. Upon this the fruit, well selected and cleansed, is arranged; over this another sheet of paper, and on the top of this another stratum of prepared lime; in the corners a little finely powdered charcoal is put. The whole box is then filled in the same manner, and the well-fitting lid nailed down. Fruit kept in this manner will remain intact at least one year.

A WORD IN SEASON.

As the wintery season approaches, the farmer who intends to be ready for the duties it will impose, cannot fail to derive strength for their performance by recurring to the saying of Solomon. Whether he was a practical farmer at any period of his life or not, is a matter of small consequence, since it is clear that, in most things, he displayed great sagacity and a profound knowledge of the results of human actions. In one of his excursions, he seems to have passed by the farm or plantation of a lazy farmer. The grounds were overgrown with weeds and briars, retarding the growth of the struggling grain. The cause he saw, and considered it well. The owner of that farm was yet in bed, saying or dreaming of "a little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding the hands in sleep." This will never do. To farm properly, a man must begin work with the opening of the season suited to each department. He must not content himself with eight hours for a day's work, but meet each claim at the proper time, and if he does so, he will prosper and afford no chance to the passer-by to denounce him a sluggard.

SIICILIAN MODE OF EATING STRAWBERRIES.—Throughout Sicily it is the custom to eat strawberries along with sugar and the juice of an orange or two. The strawberries, a small kind, come to table without their stalks, are crushed with white powdered sugar, and the juice of an orange is squeezed over them. The result is a most fragrant and agreeable compound, much superior, in my opinion, to strawberries and cream. Indeed, I think it is all but worth while to make a journey to Sicily to be initiated into this mode of eating strawberries.—Gardener's Chronicle.

Miscellaneous.

ANECDOTE OF DR. PAYSON. An eminent divine now living related to me, not long since, the substance of a conversation between Dr. Payson and himself with reference to the relation of Christ's death to his people. The question put to Dr. Payson was,

"What relation does the death of Christ bear to me, if I am one of his sheep?" At the time of the conversation, Dr. Payson was sitting with his friend in a parlor fronting the public square in New Haven, Conn. Dr. Payson sat for a moment without answering the question, and then said to his friend—

"Look out of this window upon yonder green. Imagine it filled with people of every description of characters, of all sizes and ages. Imagine that they are looking at the huge elm in the centre of the green, and upon that tree is suspended a man who is struggling and gasping in the agonies of death. You instantly become interested. You go out on the green yourself, to inquire into the cause of this fearful tragedy. You look around you, that you may meet with some person who can give you an intelligent account of the transaction. You see a venerable-looking man in the crowd, and you approach him. You ask him if he can tell you why that man is stretched on yonder tree? He replies as follows: 'This is a wonderful thing that occurs in our city to-day. That man whom you see suspended on that tree is one who was never known to sin. He has lived among us for more than thirty years, and set before all a perfect example. In his intercourse with others, gentleness and love was prominent. In fact, he has devoted his life to the good of others. He has visited the sick and imprisoned. He has ministered to the poor and needy; and he has poured the oil of consolation into the hearts of the bereaved and afflicted. But notwithstanding all this, he has labored most of all for a higher and nobler object. His chief aim has been to make men good and happy hereafter.' But now comes the

strangest part of his history; when he has tried hardest for the good of others, he has been most persecuted. Several times he barely escaped death at the hands of those upon whom he desired to confer the richest blessings; and now, as the highest evidence of his good will to man, he is suspended on yonder tree to bear the punishment due to one who was sentenced to die in his crimes, and who must have died, if this man had not offered to die in his stead.' By this time," said Dr. Payson, "your feelings would be excited to the highest point of indignation against the man for whom this noble and magnanimous person was struggling in the agonies of death, and you would ask your informant who the monster was that had suffered this pure and noble being to die in his stead! What would be your amazement and shame if he should reply 'THOU ART THE MAN!'"

A BOUNTY ON CRIME.

The country was startled a few weeks since, by the announcement of an extensive robbery in New York city to the amount of a million and a half of dollars. The facts as reported make the theft one of the coolest, boldest, and most skillful on record. Four men, in the busiest hour of the day, in the busiest street, enter the office of one of the busiest of men, and while the ring-leader, gifted with a ready tongue, is engaging the attention of the venerable merchant, by a preconcerted plan one of his comrades glides into the safe, and carries off two tin boxes and a wallet. On meeting and looking over their gains they are aghast. There is a million and a half of dollars and valuable papers. The leader an adroit man, soon sees that he can make a good strike and keep clear of prison. "We will hide these bonds and then open negotiations with the old gentleman." Soon the parties are brought together and diplomacy begins. The rogue frankly says, "You can have me or the money. Which? If you will give one hundred thousand dollars and secure me from personal harm, it is a bargain; otherwise, not a dollar will you have." A transaction like this "requires management and time. The robber, 'master of the situation,' patiently waits in the public house, while officers go to and fro between New York and Boston. A mystery hangs over the affair. At present it would seem that, like the case of the Concord robbers, all the public are to know is, that felony has been compounded with.

Here is a case more alarming than the theft itself. If the officers of the law, in open violation of the plain provisions of the statute, bargain with thieves, crime will have a holiday. The only thing to be sure of is, that a large sum be doctored, and then good terms will be made. Only be adroit enough to hide the stolen treasure and have nerve sufficient to assure the late owner that sooner than yield you will go to prison and destroy his wealth, and the point is gained.

The effect of this upon public morality is deplorable. Not only are old rogues emboldened, but the fear of punishment loses all influence. Young thieves are greatly encouraged. The moral sense of the community gets blunted, and the very foundations of security are undermined. The evil will surely work out its own cure, because this state of things if allowed to continue, would bring ruin upon society. But the sooner the practice is stopped the better. Every repetition of bargaining adds to the corruption of public morals. We trust that some one who thus compounds with crime will soon be made to feel the hand of the law so that justice may not be stabbied by her assumed guardians.—Christian Register.

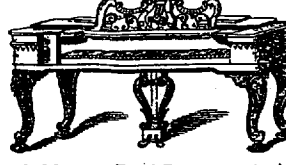
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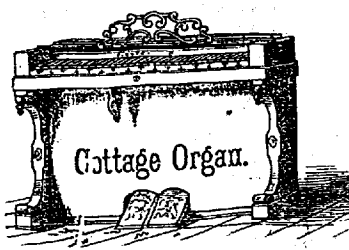
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